

Summary of Major Provisions of the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act

AS INTRODUCED

H.R. 250 would:

- Establish an Interagency Committee on Manufacturing Research and Development to coordinate Federal manufacturing R&D efforts, and an Advisory Committee to guide those efforts. The Interagency Committee would prepare a strategic plan for manufacturing R&D, produce a coordinated interagency budget, and write an annual report on the Federal programs involved in manufacturing R&D. The President may designate existing bodies to serve as the committees.
- Establish a three-year cost-shared, collaborative manufacturing R&D pilot grant program at NIST, funded at \$10 million per year for FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.
- Establish a post-doctoral and senior research fellowship program in manufacturing sciences at NIST, funded beginning at \$1.5 million in FY 2006 and increasing to \$2.25 million in FY 2009.
- Reauthorize the MEP program with a mechanism for review and re-competition of MEP Centers. H.R. 250 would also create an additional competitive grant program from which MEP centers can obtain supplemental funding for manufacturing-related projects. Funds would be authorized at \$110 million in FY 2006, of which \$4 million would be for a competitive grant program within MEP, and the MEP authorization would increase by \$5 million per year to \$125 million in FY 2009.
- Authorize general funding for NIST's Scientific, Technical, and Research Services (STRS) account, the Baldrige Quality Award program, and the Construction and Maintenance account. The STRS account would be authorized in FY 2006 at the President's request of \$422 million. The NIST authorization would increase by 5% per year through FY 2009. H.R. 250 would also establish a standards education grant program at NIST and authorize funding beginning at \$773,000 in FY 2006.